

Message Text

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42

ACTION NEA-10

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4512

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CHUSMTM DHAHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 2985

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, SA,US

SUBJECT: USMTM MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

REF: JIDDA 2983

1. REFTTEL FORWARDED TO THE DEPARTMENT THE FORMAL REPLY OF THE SAG TO OUR PROPOSED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON THE STATUS OF THE U.S. MILITARY TRAINING DIVISION IN SAUDI ARABIA. IT IS CLEARLY UNACCEPTABLE, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS THE STATUS OF USMTM PERSONNEL.

2. WE HAD HOPED TO BE ABLE EFFECTIVELY TO IGNORE THIS COUNTER PROPOSAL BY MEANS OF DIRECT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, BUT PRINCE SULTAN INFORMED CHUSMTM APRIL 18 THAT HE CANNOT AUTHORIZE DISCUSSIONS UNTIL WE HAVE REPLIED TO THE FORIEGN MINISTRY. WE WISH TO AVOID GETTING BOGGED DOWN IN TIME CONSUMING CORRESPONDENCE IN DETAIL WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY AND HAVE THEREFORE REPLIED IN A FASHION DESIGNED TO INDICATE OUR DISSATISFACTION WITH THE SAUDI PROPOSAL AND GET FACE-TO-FACE NEGOTIATIONS STARTED WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO OUR ORIGINAL NEGOTIATING POSITION. TEXT OF OUR REPLY TO FOREIGN MINISTRY IN PARA 3. THIS REPLY SUBMITTED TO MFA
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APRIL 26.

3. (PREAMBLE OMITTED) ... AND HAS THE HONOR TO REFER TO THE MINISTRY'S NOTE NUMBER 86/36/1/1145/2 OF MARCH 21, 1976 (CORRESPONDING TO 21/3/96 H), WHICH CONTAINED THE COUNTER PROPOSAL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SAUDI ARABIA TO OUR PROPOSAL OF JULY 14, 1975, FOR A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING THE STATUS OF THE U.S. TRAINING MISSION IN SAUDI ARABIA. THE PROPOSAL OF THE SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT IS FROM THE STANDPOINT OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT LESS SATISFACTORY IN A NUMBER OF RESPECTS THAN THE 1953 AGREEMENT IT IS DESIGNED TO SUPERSEDE.

WE BELIEVE THAT BY MEANS OF PERSONAL NEGOTIATIONS, IT WILL BE POSSIBLE MORE QUICKLY TO CLARIFY THE VIEWS OF THE TWO SIDES CONCERNING THE VARIOUS ISSUES AND TO REACH A MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT.

IN ORDER TO PRECLUDE FINANCING DIFFICULTIES FOR THE US MILITARY TRAINING MISSION WHICH WOULD RISE IF AN AGREEMENT IS NOT CONCLUDED BEFORE JUNE 30, 1976 (THE END OF THE U.S. FISCAL YEAR), WE HOPE THAT THE SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT WILL BE PREPARED TO APPOINT A GROUP AUTHORIZED TO ENTER INTO DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. IN THIS REGARD, WE PROPOSE THAT THE U.S. TEAM BE COMPOSED OF THE CHIEF OF THE U.S. MILITARY TRAINING MISSION IN SAUDI ARABIA, SUCH FEW MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF AS HE CONSIDERS NECESSARY AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EMBASSY. CONSISTENT WITH THE DESIRES OF THE SAUDI ARABIAN GOVERNMENT, THE SAUDI ARABIAN TEAM MIGHT BE COMPOSED OF RESPONSIBLE OFFICERS OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND, IF APPROPRIATE, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING THE VIEWS OF THE ESTEEMED ROYAL MINISTRY AT ITS EARLIEST CONVENIENCE.

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